

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1205

To provide for the establishment of a mentor school program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 5), 1995

Mr. COATS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a mentor school program, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; AND PURPOSES.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Mentor Schools Act”.

6       (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

7               (1) while low-income students have made sig-  
8       nificant gains with respect to educational achieve-  
9       ment and attainment, considerable gaps still persist

1 for these students in comparison to those from more  
2 affluent socio-economic backgrounds;

3 (2) our Nation has a compelling interest in as-  
4 suring that all children receive a high quality edu-  
5 cation;

6 (3) new methods and experiments to revitalize  
7 the educational achievement of, and opportunities  
8 for, low-income individuals must be a part of any  
9 comprehensive solution to the problems in our Na-  
10 tion's educational system;

11 (4) successful educational alternatives should be  
12 widely implemented to better the education of low-  
13 income individuals;

14 (5) preliminary research shows that same gen-  
15 der schools produce promising academic and behav-  
16 ioral improvements in both sexes for low-income,  
17 educationally disadvantaged students;

18 (6) extensive data on same gender schools are  
19 needed to determine whether same gender schools  
20 are closely tailored to achieving the compelling gov-  
21 ernment interest in assuring that all children are  
22 educated to the best of their ability;

23 (7) in recent years efforts to experiment with  
24 same gender schools have been inhibited by lawsuits

1 and threats of lawsuits by private groups as well as  
2 governmental entities; and

3 (8) same gender schools are a legal educational  
4 alternative to coeducational schools and are not pro-  
5 hibited under the regulations under title IX of the  
6 Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et  
7 seq.), as such regulations were in effect on the day  
8 preceding the date of enactment of this Act, so long  
9 as—

10 (A) comparable courses, services and facili-  
11 ties are available to students of each sex; and

12 (B) the same policies and criteria for ad-  
13 mission to such schools are used for both sexes.

14 (c) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act—

15 (1) to award grants to local educational agen-  
16 cies for the establishment of same gender schools for  
17 low-income students;

18 (2) to determine whether same gender schools  
19 make a difference in the educational achievement  
20 and opportunities of low-income, educationally dis-  
21 advantaged individuals;

22 (3) to improve academic achievement and per-  
23 sistence in school; and

24 (4) to involve parents in the educational options  
25 and choices of their children.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 As used in this Act—

3 (1) the term “evaluating agency” means any  
4 academic institution, consortium of professionals, or  
5 private or nonprofit organization, with demonstrated  
6 experience in conducting evaluations, that is not an  
7 agency or instrumentality of the Federal Govern-  
8 ment;

9 (2) the term “mentor school” means a public  
10 elementary school or secondary school, or consortium  
11 of such schools, that—

12 (A)(i) in the case of a public elementary  
13 school or secondary school, receives funds under  
14 this Act; or

15 (ii) in the case of a consortium of such  
16 schools, all of which receive funds under this  
17 Act;

18 (B) develops a plan for, and provides ac-  
19 cess to—

20 (i) a school for boys;

21 (ii) a school for girls; and

22 (iii) a coeducational school;

23 (C) gives parents the option of choosing to  
24 send their child to each school described in sub-  
25 paragraph (B);

1 (D) admits students on the basis of a lot-  
2 tery, if more students apply for admission to a  
3 school described in clause (i) or (ii) of subpara-  
4 graph (B) that can be accommodated;

5 (E) operates, as part of the educational  
6 program of a school described in clause (i) or  
7 (ii) of subparagraph (B), a one-to-one  
8 mentoring program that—

9 (i) involves members from the commu-  
10 nity served by such school as volunteer  
11 mentors;

12 (ii) pairs an adult member of such  
13 community with a student of the same  
14 gender as such member; and

15 (iii) involves the collaboration of one  
16 or more community groups with experience  
17 in mentoring or other relationship develop-  
18 ment activities; and

19 (F) operates in pursuit of improving  
20 achievement among all children based on a spe-  
21 cific set of educational objectives determined by  
22 the local educational agency applying for a  
23 grant under this part, in conjunction with the  
24 mentor school advisory board established under  
25 section 3(d), and agreed to by the Secretary;

1           (3) the term “mentor school advisory board”  
2       means an advisory board established in accordance  
3       with section 3(d); and

4           (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
5       of Education.

6   **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

7       (a) AUTHORITY.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-  
9       able under section 7, the Secretary is authorized to  
10      award grants to not more than 100 local educational  
11      agencies for the planning and operation of one or  
12      more mentor schools.

13          (2) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-  
14      CIES.—The Secretary shall only award a grant  
15      under paragraph (1) to a local educational agency  
16      that—

17           (A) receives funds under section 1124A of  
18      the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
19      of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6334); and

20           (B) is among the 20 percent of local edu-  
21      cational agencies receiving funds under section  
22      1124A (20 U.S.C. 6334) of such Act in the  
23      State that have the highest number of children  
24      described in section 1124(c) (20 U.S.C.  
25      6333(c)) of such Act.

1 (b) GRANT PERIODS.—Each grant under subsection  
2 (a) may be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years,  
3 of which a local educational agency may use not more than  
4 1 year for planning and program development for a men-  
5 tor school.

6 (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not award  
7 more than 1 grant under this Act to support a particular  
8 mentor school.

9 (d) MENTOR SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD.—Each local  
10 educational agency receiving a grant under this Act shall  
11 establish a mentor school advisory board. Such advisory  
12 board shall be composed of school administrators, parents,  
13 teachers, local government officials and volunteers in-  
14 volved with a mentor school. Such advisory board shall as-  
15 sist the local educational agency in developing the applica-  
16 tion for assistance under section 4 and serve as an advi-  
17 sory board in the functioning of the mentor school.

18 (e) ALTERNATIVE TEACHING CERTIFICATES.—Each  
19 local educational agency operating a mentor school under  
20 this Act is encouraged to employ teachers with alternative  
21 teaching certificates, including participants in the pro-  
22 gram assisted under section 1151 of title 10, United  
23 States Code (Troops to Teachers Program).

1 **SEC. 4. APPLICATIONS.**

2 (a) APPLICATIONS REQUIRED.—Each local edu-  
3 cational agency desiring a grant under this Act shall sub-  
4 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
5 manner and accompanied by such information as the Sec-  
6 retary may reasonably require.

7 (b) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Each application de-  
8 scribed in subsection (a) shall include—

9 (1) a description of the educational program to  
10 be implemented by the proposed mentor school, in-  
11 cluding—

12 (A) the grade levels or ages of children to  
13 be served; and

14 (B) the curriculum and instructional prac-  
15 tices to be used;

16 (2) a description of the objectives of the local  
17 educational agency for the mentor school and a de-  
18 scription of how such agency intends to monitor and  
19 study the progress of children participating in the  
20 mentor school;

21 (3) a description of how the local educational  
22 agency intends to include in the mentor school ad-  
23 ministrators, teaching personnel, and role models  
24 from the private sector;

25 (4) a description of how school administrators,  
26 parents, teachers, local government and volunteers



1 will be involved in the design and implementation of  
2 the mentor school;

3 (5) a description of the one-to-one mentoring  
4 program required by section 2(2)(E);

5 (6) a description of how the local educational  
6 agency or the State, as appropriate, will provide for  
7 continued operation of the mentor school once the  
8 Federal grant has expired, if such agency determines  
9 that such school is successful;

10 (7) a description of how the grant funds will be  
11 used;

12 (8) a description of how students in attendance  
13 at the mentor school, or in the community served by  
14 such school, will be—

15 (A) informed about such school; and

16 (B) informed about the fact that admission  
17 to a school described in section 2(2)(B) is com-  
18 pletely voluntary;

19 (9) a description of how grant funds provided  
20 under this Act will be used in conjunction with funds  
21 provided to the local educational agency under any  
22 other program administered by the Secretary;

23 (10) an assurance that the local educational  
24 agency will annually provide the Secretary such in-  
25 formation as the Secretary may require to determine

1 if the mentor school is making satisfactory progress  
2 toward achieving the objectives described in para-  
3 graph (2);

4 (11) an assurance that the local educational  
5 agency will cooperate with the Secretary in evaluat-  
6 ing the program authorized by this Act;

7 (12) an assurance that resources provided  
8 under this Act shall be used equally for schools for  
9 boys and for schools for girls;

10 (13) an assurance that the activities assisted  
11 under this Act will not have an adverse affect, on ei-  
12 ther sex, that is caused by—

13 (A) the quality of facilities for boys and for  
14 girls;

15 (B) the nature of the curriculum for boys  
16 and for girls;

17 (C) program activities for boys and for  
18 girls; and

19 (D) instruction for boys and for girls; and

20 (14) such other information and assurances as  
21 the Secretary may require.

22 **SEC. 5. SELECTION OF GRANTEES.**

23 The Secretary shall award grants under this Act on  
24 the basis of the quality of the applications submitted

1 under section 4, taking into consideration such factors  
2 as—

3 (1) the quality of the proposed curriculum and  
4 instructional practices for the mentor school;

5 (2) the organizational structure and manage-  
6 ment of the mentor school;

7 (3) the quality of the plan for assessing the  
8 progress made by students served by a mentor  
9 school over the period of the grant;

10 (4) the extent of community support for the ap-  
11 plication;

12 (5) the likelihood that the mentor school will  
13 meet the objectives of such school and improve edu-  
14 cational results for students; and

15 (6) the assurances submitted pursuant to sec-  
16 tion 4(b)(13).

17 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appropriated  
19 under section 7 for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall  
20 make available to the Comptroller General 1 percent of  
21 such amount to enable the Comptroller General to enter  
22 into a contract with an evaluating agency for the evalua-  
23 tion of the mentor schools program under this Act. Such  
24 evaluation shall measure the academic competence and so-  
25 cial development of students attending mentor schools, in-

1 cluding school attendance levels, student achievement lev-  
2 els, drop out rates, college admissions, incidences of teen-  
3 age pregnancy, and incidences of incarceration.

4 (b) REPORT.—The evaluating agency entering into  
5 the contract described in subsection (a) shall submit a re-  
6 port to the Congress not later than September 30, 2002,  
7 regarding the results of the evaluation conducted in ac-  
8 cordance with such subsection.

9 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
11 priated \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 1996 and such sums  
12 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1997,  
13 1998, 1999, and 2000 to carry out this Act.

14 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under sub-  
15 section (a) shall remain available until expended.

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